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Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020014

Date: 16 November 2015

Dear

Planning Act 2008 (as amended), the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (as amended) (CAR) – Regulations 11 and 13 - 17 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) (EPR) – Rule 8(3)

Application by SP MANWEB for an Order Granting Development Consent for the North Wales Wind Farms Connection

Timetable for examination of Option B

I write to inform you of how the Examining Authority (ExA) intends to examine the Option B proposal submitted by the applicant, including the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land. Option B, submitted on 16 September 2015, comprises alternative positions for 16 pole clusters.

This letter also gives notice of our forthcoming hearings and a change to our examination timetable.

How Option B will be examined

Thank you to those parties who have provided representations on the Option B proposals. These have assisted us in preparing our initial assessment of issues, which is appended at **Annex A**.

The ExA has decided that it is not necessary to hold a meeting to discuss how the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land should be examined. This letter comprises our procedural decisions regarding the matter.

Interested parties are now invited to submit written representations regarding the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of

restrictions over additional land by noon on Tuesday 8 December 2015. Please send these, where practicable, as email attachments to NWWFConnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk. Files should be clearly labelled and not exceed 12 MB for each email. If posted, representations should be sent to Nicholas Coombes at the address at the top of this letter, marked NWWFC EN020014. If any documents are at A3 size (or larger) or contain over 300 pages, please provide four paper copies of the documents.

A compulsory acquisition hearing to allow affected persons to provide oral representations to the ExA about the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land has been arranged for Wednesday 9 December 2015 commencing at 10.00am. An open floor hearing has also been arranged on Wednesday 9 December 2015, commencing at 5.30pm to enable interested parties and affected persons to provide oral representations in relation to Option B matters. These hearings will also allow interested parties to provide further oral representations in relation to Option A (the original application) if they wish to do so. Details of the hearings are provided at **Annex C**.

Notification of hearings

The ExA provides notice in **Annex C** of the hearings planned for Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 December 2015. There will be issue specific, open floor and compulsory acquisition hearings, and a hearing into the draft development consent order (DCO). At these hearings there will be opportunities for oral representations on Option B as well as the original application (Option A). If you wish to participate at these hearings, please notify us by Thursday 3 December 2015. Agendas will be published one week in advance on the project website at:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/NWWFConnection>

In the ExA's second written questions, the ExA asked if any additional site inspections were desired by interested parties. No requests have been received to date for an accompanied site inspection. If an accompanied site inspection is required, it will be on Friday 11 December 2015 from 9.30am. An itinerary or notice of cancellation will be published one week in advance on the project website as above.

The ExA has arranged for these hearings and associated submissions to be concluded before Christmas. However, this means that it is not possible for the applicant to provide notice 21 days in advance of the hearings as recommended in Rule 13(6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. In accordance with Rule 13(6) the ExA hereby directs that the applicant must comply with Rule 13(6) eighteen days before the hearings arranged for Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 December 2015.

Change to examination timetable

The examination timetable, at **Annex B**, has been updated to reflect the above. The ExA has also decided to include the provision for the ExA to publish its own consultation draft DCO within the revised timetable (in case it considers that it is necessary to issue one later in the examination), so the publication date for this is

included in the revised timetable. This does not mean that the ExA has decided upon its recommendation to the Secretary of State. If the ExA decides to publish its own consultation draft of the DCO, we will invite comments on it without prejudice to your position.

Thank you for your continuing interest and involvement in this examination.

Yours faithfully

Lillian Harrison

Dr Lillian Harrison
Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

Annexes:

- A. Initial assessment of issues
- B. Revised timetable for examination of the application
- C. Notification of hearings
- D. Availability of examination documents

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the National Infrastructure Planning website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Initial assessment of issues

This is the initial assessment of issues arising from consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the Option B application documents and additional relevant representations received.

It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters when it writes its recommendation to the Secretary of State after the examination has concluded.

Additional principal issues identified in relation to Option B relate to the effect of the additional land-take on the agricultural interests affected and the effects on mitigational planting.

The other matters raised in relevant representations regarding Option B relate to matters that have already been identified in relation to the initial assessment of principal issues for Option A (the original application).

Revised timetable for examination of the application

The revised timetable for the examination of the application is as follows:

Item	Matters	Due Dates
14	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to ExA's second written questions 	<p>Wednesday 18 November 2015 at noon</p>
15	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses to ExA's second written questions Notification of wish to make oral representations at December hearings 	<p>Thursday 3 December 2015 at noon</p>
16	<p>Deadline 8</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written representations regarding the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights over additional land 	<p>Tuesday 8 December 2015 at noon</p>
17	Issue specific hearing on the principles of development and environmental issues including (but not limited to) costs and policy, landscape and visual impacts and land use and land management matters regarding Option B, and any outstanding matters regarding Option A on the principles of development and environmental issues	<p>Tuesday 8 December 2015 commencing at 10.00am</p>
18	Compulsory acquisition hearing in relation to the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land in relation to Option B (if required)	<p>Wednesday 9 December 2015 commencing at 10.00am</p>
19	Compulsory acquisition hearing in relation to any outstanding matters regarding Option A	
20	Open floor hearing in relation to the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land in relation to Option B (if required)	<p>Wednesday 9 December 2015 commencing at 5.30pm</p>
21	Open floor hearing in relation to Option A (if required)	
22	Issue specific hearing on the draft DCO for both the Option B draft DCO and any remaining matters in	<p>Thursday 10 December 2015</p>

	relation to the Option A draft DCO	commencing at 10.00am
23	Date reserved for accompanied site inspection (if required)	Friday 11 December 2015
24	<p>Deadline 9</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing documents • Revised draft DCO from applicant • Comments on written representations regarding the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of additional land • Any further information requested by the ExA 	Monday 21 December 2015 at noon
25	Publication of Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)	Monday 21 December 2015
26	Publication of ExA's consultation draft DCO (if required)	Thursday 7 January 2016
27	<p>Deadline 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on ExA's consultation draft DCO (if published) and RIES • Comments on post-hearing documents • Any further information requested by the ExA 	Thursday 21 January 2016 at noon
28	<p>Deadline 11</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to comments on the ExA's consultation draft DCO (if published) and RIES • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA 	Thursday 28 January 2016 at noon
29	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.	Thursday 28 January 2016

Notification of hearings

As set out in the examination timetable (Deadline 7, Annex B), those interested parties who wish to speak at hearings should notify Nicholas Coombes at NWWFConnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk or using the postal address on the front page of this letter. Please notify us by noon on 3 December 2015. It would assist with organisation of the hearing if you could tell us of any special needs you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc). Please also inform us in advance if you wish to speak in Welsh or make use of translation services. Ensure that you include your interested party reference number in your correspondence, and make it clear which hearing(s) you wish to participate in.

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following hearings, in compliance with Rule 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended).

1. Issue specific hearing on the principles of development and environmental issues including (but not limited to) costs and policy, landscape and visual impacts and land use and land management matters regarding Option B and any outstanding matters on Option A regarding principles of development and environmental issues.

Dates of hearing: Tuesday 8 December 2015

Time of hearing: 10.00am

Venue: Denbigh Town Hall, Crown Lane, Denbigh
Denbighshire LL16 3TB

The purpose of an issue specific hearing is for discussion on the relevant issues led by the ExA. Parties should expect to be questioned by the ExA and to justify their statements.

2. Compulsory acquisition hearing on the proposed provision for rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land

Date of hearing: Wednesday 9 December 2015

Time of hearing: 10.00am

Venue: Denbigh Town Hall, Crown Lane, Denbigh
Denbighshire LL16 3TB

This hearing allows affected persons to address the ExA on matters related to the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land in relation to Option B. Affected persons should register in advance their desire to participate and identify the specific plots that would be affected. Parties should expect to be questioned by the ExA and to justify their statements.

3. Compulsory acquisition hearing

Date of hearing: Wednesday 9 December 2015

Time of hearing: immediately following the previous hearing

Venue: Denbigh Town Hall, Crown Lane, Denbigh
Denbighshire LL16 3TB

The purpose of the compulsory acquisition hearings is to enable discussion about the merits of the case for acquisition of rights over individual plots of land. The hearings will be led by the ExA, with involvement from affected persons (landowners, tenants, etc) and the applicant. Affected persons should register in advance their desire to participate and identify the specific plots that would be affected. Parties should expect to be questioned by the ExA and to justify their statements. There is no need to repeat matters raised at previous compulsory acquisition hearings.

4. Open floor hearing on the proposed provision for rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land

Date of hearing: Wednesday 9 December 2015

Time of hearing: 5.30pm

Venue: Denbigh Town Hall, Crown Lane, Denbigh
Denbighshire LL16 3TB

This hearing allows interested parties to address the ExA on matters related to the proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions over additional land in relation to Option B. Speaking time will be shared between interested parties who register in advance. Parties who do not register in advance may be heard at the end of the meeting if there is time available, at the discretion of the ExA.

5. Open floor hearing

Date of hearing: Wednesday 9 December 2015

Time of hearing: immediately following the previous hearing

Venue: Denbigh Town Hall, Crown Lane, Denbigh
Denbighshire LL16 3TB

The purpose of this second open floor hearing is to allow interested parties to address the ExA on relevant matters of their choosing. Speaking time will be shared between interested parties who register in advance. Parties who do not register in advance may be heard at the end of the meeting if there is time available, at the discretion of the ExA. There is no need to repeat matters raised at the previous open floor hearing.

6. Issue specific hearing on the draft Development Consent Order (DCO)

for both the Option B draft DCO and any remaining matters in relation to the Option A draft DCO.

Date of hearing: Thursday 10 December 2015

Time of hearing: 10.00am

Venue: Denbigh Town Hall, Crown Lane, Denbigh
Denbighshire LL16 3TB

This hearing will concentrate on the specific issue of the draft DCO. This is the order which the Secretary of State would make if she wished to consent the application. Discussion at this hearing is 'without prejudice'; this means that parties may make contributions to improve the quality of the draft DCO without invalidating their own positions of support or opposition to the scheme as a whole.

Irrespective of its recommendation, the ExA is required to present a draft DCO to the Secretary of State. Discussion about the specifics of the draft does not indicate that the ExA has decided what its recommendation on the application will be.

The hearing into the draft DCO is likely to be of a technical nature and will be based on the specific wording of the draft DCO.

Notification of site inspection

The ExA provides notice of the following accompanied site inspection, in compliance with Rule 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended).

Date of inspection: Friday 11 December 2015

Time of inspection: 9.30am

Departure point: Denbigh Town Hall, Crown Lane, Denbigh
Denbighshire LL16 3TB

This site inspection is dependent on requests being made by the deadline of 18 November 2015. If no requests are made, the inspection may be cancelled. An itinerary or notice of cancellation will be provided one week in advance on the project webpage at:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/NWWFConnection>

Availability of examination documents

SP MANWEB, the applicant, has provided a copy of the application documents as submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for inspection and copying at Denbigh and St Asaph One Stop Shops.

All application documents including relevant representations and application documents are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/NWWFConnection>

Documents can be viewed electronically at the following locations.

Electronic Deposit Locations:

Library/ Address		Opening Hours	
Denbigh Library Hall Square Denbigh LL16 3NU		Monday – 9.30am-7pm Tuesday – 9.30am-5pm Wednesday – 9.30am-5pm Thursday – 1pm-5pm Friday – 9.30am-5pm Saturday – 9.30am-12.30pm Sunday - closed	
St Asaph Library The Roe St Asaph LL17 0LU		Monday – 9.30am-4.30pm Tuesday – 1pm-4.30pm Wednesday – 9.30am-4.30pm Thursday – closed Friday – 9.30am-4pm Saturday – closed Sunday – closed	
Printing Costs	B&W printing	B&W copying	Colour printing
A4	15p	10p	35p
A3	N/A	15p	N/A
Link to all council library locations:			
www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/libraries-and-archives/libraries-and-archives.aspx			
www.conwy.gov.uk/sectionextra.asp?catid=6579			